



Newell H. Long

Newell H. Long was born in 1905 in Markle, IN. He attended Indiana University and first played in the IU Band in 1923 along with Herman B. Wells, and continued playing for alumni occasions well past his retirement from IU in 1975. In college he formed a jazz band to play between features at the Indiana Theatre, with his friendly competitor Hoagy Carmichael up the street at the Princess Theater.

Long graduated from IU with degrees in math, physics and music composition and a doctorate in education from IU as well as a master's degree in music education from Northwestern University.

His teaching career included teaching math and heading band and orchestral programs at the secondary level (first as a mathematics teacher in LaGrange, IN), as well as teaching 36 courses at IU, including trombone, composition and high school methods courses. For much of his 40-year career with the university, Newell was associate conductor of bands. He joined the IU School of Music as well as the Bloomington schools in 1935, conducting the Bloomington High School band and orchestra until 1939 and the University School band from 1939 to 1943.

Long judged innumerable band festivals and contests, including the State Fair Marching Band Contest. He received the Distinguished Service Award in 1969 from the Indiana Bandmaster's Association. In 1977, he was named to the Phi Beta Mu National Bandmasters Hall of Fame and in 1985 was named Hoosier Musician of the Year by the Indiana Music Educators Association. As an administrator at IU, Long served as the first assistant dean of the School of Music and as chairman of the undergraduate division of the music education department. He retired from administrative duties in 1970.

The founding director of the Bloomington Community Band in 1978, he conducted the band as recently as 1997. As a composer, Long wrote 86 compositions and arrangements in a variety of media, 26 of which have been published. He was a former president of the Indiana School Music Association, a founding editor of the *Indiana Musicator* and a former president of the National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors. He was a member of Kappa Kappa Psi, Sinfonia, Phi Beta Mu, Phi Delta Kappa and ASCAP. Long's memberships also include First Presbyterian Church, the Thursday Discussion Club and Kiwanis.

For many years Dr. Long was active with the IU Marching Hundred Alumni Band. Fellow IU alumnus and Gamma Chapter member Ed Axsom wrote of Long: "Customarily the Marching 100 Alumni Band honors an alumnus/alumna with the Newell Long Award during Homecoming Festivities. This award is given to that individual who the committee believes best exemplifies the high professional standards and contributions set forth by Professor Long. . . Frankly, there are few individuals who can approach his degree of excellence. For decades Dr. Long devoted his gifted talents and prized technical knowledge to IU as a teacher, administrator, composer, arranger, loyal alumnus, and dear friend. . . ."

Dr. Long passed away in Bloomington on January 7, 1999. His life was the subject of an in-depth interview in the May 1988 *Musicator* magazine. Long and his wife Eleanor were the parents of one son, Edward, also a music teacher.